

have entirely forgotten the different members of the Bonaparte family, speaking of her life in Prance as "a bad dream."<sup>1</sup> She obtained the Grand Duchy of Parma, where she reigned till 1847, marrying a third time, it is said, the Count Bombelles, and dying just too soon to be hunted from her Duchy by the Revolution of 1848.

There is something very touching in most that we know of the poor young King of Borne, from his childish but strangely prescient resistance to his removal from Paris to Blois on the approach of the Allies in 1814, to the message of remembrance sent in after years to the column of the Place Vendome, "his only friend in Paris."<sup>7</sup>

At four years of age Meneval describes him as gentle, but quick in answering, strong, and with excellent health. "Light curly hair in ringlets set off a fresh face, while fine blue eyes lit up his regular features. He was precociously intelligent, and knew more than most children older than himself."<sup>2</sup> When Meneval — the former secretary of his father, giving up his post in Austria with Maria Louisa, as he was about to rejoin Napoleon — took farewell of the Prince in May, 1815, the poor little motherless child "drew me towards the window, and, giving me a touching look, said in a low tone, 'Monsieur M<sup>e</sup>va, tell him (Napoleon) that I always love him dearly.'<sup>3</sup> We say "motherless," because Maria Louisa seems to have yielded up her child at the dictates of policy to be closely guarded as easily as she gave up her husband. "If," wrote Madame de Montesquiou, his governess, "the child had a mother, I would leave him in her hands, and be happy, but she is nothing like a mother, she is more indifferent to his fate than the most utter stranger in her service."<sup>4</sup> His grandfather, the Emperor Francis, to do him justice, seems to have been really kind to the lad, and while, in 1814, 1815, and in 1830, taking care to deprive him of all chance of his glorious inheritance, still seems to have cared for him personally,

<sup>1</sup> This is in opposition to the mention made of Maria Louisa in Napoleon's Will, but see *Meneval*, tome ii. pp. 360-369, and, *Vitrolles*, tome iii. pp. 500-508, and thft. *Talleyrand Correspondence*, vol. ii. p. 19.

<sup>2</sup> *Men->r(tl*, tome ii. p. 225. <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, tome ii. p. 326.

<sup>4</sup> *lung's Lucien*, tome iii. p. 181.